

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBEASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9493

UNCLAS MEXICO 7353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MX CU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA BEGINS VISIT TO CUBA

1. SUMMARY: ECHEVERRIA ARRIVED IN CUBA AUGUST 18 TO BEGIN THE LAST AND LONGEST STATE VISIT OF HIS CURRENT 14 NATION TOUR. ECHEVERRIA AND CASTRO'S PRONOUNCEMENTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THIS VISIT (AS REPORTED IN THE MEXICAN PRESS) ARE LACED WITH MILITANT THIRD WORLD RHETORIC BUT NOT QUITE AS SHRILL AS HAS BEEN HEARD FROM THE TWO LEADERS IN THE PAST. THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OF THE VISIT THUS FAR IS CASTRO'S REPORTED ACCEPTANCE OF ECHEVERRIA'S INVITATION TO VISIT MEXICO. END SUMMARY.

2. ON HIS ARRIVAL IN CUBA AUGUST 18, ECHEVERRIA WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO AND PRESIDENT OSVALDO DORTICOS. TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS ACCOUNTS (REplete WITH PHOTOGRAPHS) INDICATE THAT CROWDS OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE LINED THE ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT TO GREET ECHEVERRIA WITH SHOUTS OF "VIVA MEXICO."

3. CASTRO WAS EFFUSIVE IN PRAISING ECHEVERRIA NOT ONLY FOR HIS POLICY TOWARD AND FRIENDSHIP FOR CUBA BUT ALSO FOR HIS ROLE IN LEADING LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION. IN A DECLARATION SYMBOLIC OF THIS FRIENDSHIP, CASTRO DECLARED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD "GO WITH HIM (ECHEVERRIA) WHEREVER HE GOES" DURING THIS TRAVELS

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IN CUBA. ECHEVERRIA IN TURN CALLED CASTRO ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL

PROTAGONISTS OF MODERN HISTORY. ADDITIONALLY, CASTRO REPORTEDLY  
ACCEPTED ECHEVERRIA'S INVITATION TO VISIT  
MEXICO SOMETIME DURING THE COMING YEAR.

4. WHILE THE TWO LEADERS'S SPEECHES WERE PREDICTABLY LACED WITH  
THIRD WORLD RHETORIC, NEITHER WAS AS SHRILL IN HIS  
MILITANCY AS BOTH HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST ACCORDING TO PRESS  
ACCOUNTS PUBLISHED THUS FAR IN MEXICO CITY. TYPICAL OF ECHEVERRIA'S  
REMARKS: "THE CUBAN REVOLUTION, THE VIETNAMESE  
STRUGGLE, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRIES OF  
AFRICA ARE AMONG MANY OTHER INDISPUTABLE  
INDICATIONS THAT OUR TIME IS ONE OF SOCIAL CHANGE, OUR EPOCH  
IS ONE OF THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE THIRD WORLD AND OUR TASK  
IS THAT OF CONSTRUCTING A MORE JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY.  
WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH OUR OWN MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT FOR  
THE ADVENT OF A NEW ORLD ECONOMIC ORDER WHICH WILL ELIMINATE  
INJUSTICE AND ITS DEEP CAUSES."  
JOVA

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